

# News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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CONTACT: Michal Freedhoff or Israel Klein

(202) 225-2836

## DEMOCRATS URGE FUNDING OF SECURITY AT DOE NUCLEAR SITES

### Lawmakers send letter urging appropriators to correct White House funding cut

WASHINGTON, D.C. --

Today Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation, released a letter signed by 30 Democratic Members of Congress urging the House Appropriations Committee to ensure that DOE's \$379 million request to increase DOE's emergency response capabilities and improve safeguards and security at DOE nuclear sites is fully funded. The White House earlier rejected DOE's budget request. The Appropriations Committee is scheduled to mark up the Supplemental Appropriations bill on Wednesday.

"We urge the House Appropriations Committee to remedy the White House's inexplicable refusal to provide the necessary funding to secure our nuclear weapons complex," said Rep. Markey. "From recent admissions made by Osama Bin Laden's operatives to diagrams of nuclear reactors found in caves of Afghanistan, we know that terrorists would like to attack U.S. nuclear sites and are intent on building dirty bombs or homemade nuclear weapons. Expert after expert has told Congress that after September 11th, we must significantly boost our commitment to security. Yet when DOE asked for help, the White House said NO."

Ten DOE sites, some of which are located in urban areas such as Denver, Colorado and the Bay Area of California, reportedly contain enough weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium to build a crude atomic bomb. On March 14, 2002, DOE requested supplemental funds from OMB to improve safeguards and security at DOE facilities. The funds would have been used to increase the security of transportation of nuclear weapons, install explosives detection equipment, hire and better equip additional security guards, enhance security barriers and alarm systems at the nuclear facilities, consolidate nuclear material so that fewer sites need to be protected, and increase cyber security. The DOE request was rejected by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). On March 28, Bruce M. Carnes of DOE sent a letter to Mr. Marcus Peacock at OMB expressing DOE's disappointment that OMB rejected its budget request, stating that DOE is "not operating, nor can it operate, under the pre-September 11 Design Basis Threat. Until that is revised, we must operate under Interim Implementing Guidance, and you have not provided resources to enable us to do so."

The letter sent to the Appropriations Committee urges full funding of the DOE request, and has been signed by Reps. Edward J. Markey, Nancy Pelosi, Martin Frost, John D. Dingell, Henry A. Waxman, Tom Lantos, Robert Menendez, Lois Capps, Shelley Berkley, Tom Barrett, Nydia M. Velazquez, Jim McDermott, Dale Kildee, Marcy Kaptur, Barbara Lee, John F. Tierney, Zoe Lofgren, Richard E. Neal,

Michael E. Capuano, Jerry F. Costello, Tammy Baldwin, Jane Harman, James R. Langevin, Harold Ford Jr., Aníbal Acevedo-Vilá, Peter DeFazio, Robert C. Scott, Chet Edwards, Anna G. Eshoo and Janice Schakowsky.

Copies of all correspondence can be found on Rep. Markey's website at [http://www.house.gov/markey/iss\\_terrorism.htm](http://www.house.gov/markey/iss_terrorism.htm)

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